14 ways that Congress must help kids NOW (plus, one more...)
July 15, 2021

Text/Call/Email: Michele Kayal, VP Media and Communications, 703-919-8778

Let's start with the +1, since it's top-of-mind today:

+1. Make improved and expanded CTC permanent

Today, 39 million households — or 90% of kids and their families — began receiving monthly cash payments of up to $300 per child. We spoke to four West Virginia working moms about how the money will change their families' lives — at least for the next six months. It's worth noting that making the tax cut permanent would benefit 93% of West Virginia's children — but not a single member of the state's Congressional delegation has signed on. (Yes, we're looking at you Joe Manchin.)
Here’s a topline preview of what you’ll find in the report (click on the image to download the one-pager):

A CHILDREN’S AGENDA FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

EVERY ISSUE IS A CHILDREN’S ISSUE

1. Prioritize Kids in Policy Making by adopting a children’s budget, appointing an Independent Children’s Commissioner to identify policy impacts on children, and establishing a Best Interest of the Child standard for federal policy. Read more

2. End Child Poverty by enacting a national target to cut child poverty at least in half so we can sustain and then build upon progress made on child poverty under the American Rescue Plan. Read more

3. Improve the Tax Code by making recent improvements to the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit permanent, offering rent relief, and establishing baby bonds for kids’ futures. Read more

4. End Child & Family Homelessness by reforming federal homelessness assistance to meet children’s needs, increasing access to affordable housing for families with children, and improving legal protections that prevent evictions. Read more

5. Ensure Health Coverage for All Children by making the Children’s Health Insurance Program permanent, guaranteeing continuous coverage for kids ages 0-5, and expanding health care coverage access for immigrant families. Read more

6. Improve Child and Maternal Health by providing comprehensive supports to pregnant people, investing in home visiting programs, expanding vaccine access, and training providers in treating childhood trauma. Read more

7. Restore Environmental Health by pursuing environmental justice for marginalized communities, protecting children from exposure to toxins and lead, and investing in programs that combat the effects of climate change. Read more
A Budget to Build Back Better

The $3.5 trillion budget announced yesterday by Congressional Democrats aims to fulfill the President’s comprehensive “Build Back Better” investments and items not covered in the bipartisan infrastructure proposal.

- **The good news:** It’s too early to say which specific pieces of the BBB plan are in and which may be out, but we’re pleased by the overall movement toward enacting the President’s proposed historic investments in children, which will help ensure an inclusive economic recovery.
- **The tricky part:** The Senate will need all 50 Democrats on board to get the budget through reconciliation. And (surprise, surprise) many have competing priorities. Add to that fiscal battles over how to pay for the investments and it looks like they’re in for some long nights.